
October 2022



The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Rhodesian Services Association

**Her Majesty The Queen
Elizabeth II, 1926 – 2022**

“Queen Elizabeth's was a life well lived; a promise with destiny kept and she is mourned most deeply in her passing..... In 1947, on her 21st birthday, she pledged in a broadcast from Cape Town to the Commonwealth to devote her life, whether it be short or long, to the service of her peoples. That was more than a promise: it was a profound personal commitment which defined her whole life. She made sacrifices for duty. Her dedication and devotion as sovereign never wavered, through times of change and progress, through times of joy and celebration, and through times of sadness and loss.”

King Charles III

Hugh Bomford: *During the course of the 14 years that it took to compile 'Rhodesia Regiment 1899 – 1981' I had an attitude change in one respect. Here is what happened:*

Like many Rhodesians I felt let down (to say the least) and aggrieved at the way that Rhodesia had been treated by world leaders, in particular by British politicians. Around 2011, Doug Jardine, who was a great supporter of the book project, wrote to Buckingham

Palace explaining the project and requesting a photo of the Royal Rhodesia Regiment brooch that had been presented to the Queen in 1956, in recognition of her position as Colonel in Chief of the Royal Rhodesia Regiment (a position she held from 1953 to 1970). By return, Doug received high-quality images of the brooch, together a current photo of the Queen, posing with the brooch. The covering letter from the Queen's Private Secretary, on behalf of the Queen to Doug, carried Her Majesty's good wishes for the project and expressed interest in seeing the finished product.

When Doug passed this material to me, that was when I had a complete reversal of my (until then), anti-Royal feelings. All that was requested was a photo of the brooch, but the Queen took the trouble to put on the brooch and have that photo sent to us as well. To me that was a remarkable gesture of support.

'Rhodesia Regiment 1899 – 1981', by Peter Baxter, Gerry van Tonder, Hugh Bomford, et al was published in 2014. Gerry van Tonder arranged to personally deliver a copy of the book to Buckingham Palace. Gerry and my daughter were received at Buckingham Palace and the book was sent up to Balmoral, where the Queen was at the time. Within three days, Gerry received a letter of thanks from the Queen.

May Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II rest in peace.





BUCKINGHAM PALACE

28th July, 2011.

Dear Mr. Jardine,

Thank you for your letter of 11th July to Sir Christopher Geidt regarding a regimental brooch, which was given to The Queen by the Royal Rhodesia Regiment.

I can confirm that this brooch was presented to Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace at 12 noon on Thursday 28th June, 1956 and that it now resides in The Queen's personal collection. Lord Llewellyn, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland was received by Her Majesty in audience, and he was accompanied by Colonel O.M. Newman and Lieutenant-Colonel F.B. Canning-Cooke, two Honorary Colonels of the Royal Rhodesia Regiment, who made the presentation.

I am sorry to tell you that it is our longstanding practice not to release the Royal correspondence about audiences, but I hope nonetheless that this information proves useful in your research into the regiment's history and I would like to wish you every success for the project. This message comes to you with The Queen's good wishes.

*Yours sincerely,
Edward Young*

Edward Young
The Deputy Private Secretary to The Queen

Mr. Douglas R. Jardine.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

27th February, 2012.

Dear Mr. Jardine,

Thank you for your letter of 28th January regarding the Royal Rhodesia Regiment brooch which was presented to The Queen in 1956.

I am delighted to enclose a couple of photographs of this piece, as well as an image of Her Majesty wearing the regimental brooch, which was taken recently.

I hope that they prove useful to you, in relation to your book project about the Royal Rhodesia Regiment.

*With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,
Edward Young*

Edward Young
The Deputy Private Secretary to The Queen

Mr. Douglas R. Jardine.



BALMORAL CASTLE

12th August, 2014.

Dear Mr van Tonder,

The Queen has asked me to thank you for the book 'Rhodesia Regiment 1899 – 1981' which Her Majesty received at Balmoral Castle this week. The Queen was most grateful to you for your thoughtfulness in sending it.

This letter comes with Her Majesty's warmest good wishes.

*Yours sincerely,
Samantha Cohen*

Samantha Cohen
Assistant Private Secretary to The Queen

Mr Gerry van Tonder.

THE FINAL INSPECTION

The Soldier stood and faced God, which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining just as brightly as his brass.

“Step forward now, Soldier, how shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other cheek? To My Church have you been true?”

The Soldier squared his shoulders and said, “No, Lord, I guess I ain’t,
Because those of us who carry guns can’t always be a saint.

I’ve had to work most Sundays, and at times my talk was tough.
And sometimes I’ve been violent because the world is awfully rough.

But I never took a penny that wasn’t mine to keep...
Though I worked a lot of overtime, when the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help, though at times I shook with fear,
And sometimes, God, forgive me, I’ve wept unmanly tears.

I know I don’t deserve a place among the people here.
They never wanted me around, except to calm their fears.

If you’ve a place for me here, Lord, it needn’t be so grand,
I never expected or had too much, but if you don’t, I’ll understand.”

There was silence all around the throne where the saints had often trod,
As the Soldier waited quietly for the judgement of his God.

“Step forward now, you Soldier, you’ve borne your burdens well.
Walk peacefully on Heaven’s streets, you’ve done your time in Hell.”

~ Sergeant Joshua Helterbran, 224th Engineer Battalion, U.S. Army

FROM OUR INBOX:

No. 266 (RHODESIA) SQUADRON ROYAL AIR FORCE

The cemetery at Le Folgoët in Finistère [Brittany, France] contains the Commonwealth War graves of two Royal Air Force pilots from 266 (Rhodesia) Squadron, who were shot down in August 1943. The squadron originally flew Spitfires (one of which survives to this day in the RAF Battle of Britain Flight) but had recently been equipped with the Hawker Typhoon.

In the aerial combat on Sunday 15 August 1943, over the communes of Lesneven, Ploudaniel, Saint-Frégant and Le Folgoët, three RAF Pilots were lost – Squadron Leader Alexander “Sandy” MacIntyre, Flight Lieutenant John Small, and Flight Lieutenant Brian Biddulph. They were respectively 24, 32 and 21 years old.

The sacrifice of these young men in the cause of freedom is not forgotten locally. The mayor, veterans, and local school children lay wreaths each year on Victory in Europe (VE) Day (8 May) and Remembrance Day (11 November).

“On this day [15th August 1943], Sandy MacIntyre, Johnnie Small and Brian Biddulph gave their lives in the Cause of Freedom, 266 RAF Rhodesia Squadron 15 August 1943, Le Folgoët, Finistère They came from far away to liberate France. They are not forgotten.”

From the Facebook group: [Remembrance in North Finistère](#)



Left to right: Sandy MacIntyre, Johnnie Small, Brian Biddulph

In July, **John Duncan** wrote to us from Plounéour-Brignogan-Plages, Finistère; he was hoping to trace any living relatives of John Small and Brian Biddulph, to let them know about the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the combat, planned for next year.

In an upcoming 'Sentinel Special', John will write about how these men continue to be honoured in a small village in western France, and the successful search for their families.

WAR AND REMEMBRANCE

The National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire, UK

<http://thenma.org.uk>

As a follow-up to our story on the National Memorial Arboretum (January 2022), we're re-publishing part of the account of the dedication ceremony of the RAR Memorial, which first appeared in the August/September 2015 issue of *Contact! Contact!* (a Rhodesian Services Association publication):

The dedication and unveiling of a memorial to one of Africa's finest black regiments, the Rhodesian African Rifles, and its WWI predecessor, the Rhodesia Native Regiment, took place on Sunday, 19th July 2015, at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, UK. The ceremony was attended by people from Zimbabwe, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States.



Photo: Gerry van Tonder

The dedication service was conducted by Major Reverend Tony Lee (RIP) who, after the bidding prayer, blessed and dedicated the memorial, '... to the honour of the Rhodesia Native Regiment and the Rhodesian African Rifles and their service to Crown and

Country.' Padre Lee also offered a prayer for all who died in the service of the RNR, the RAR, and those since. The main address was delivered by the President of the RAR Regimental Association, Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, the 7th Marquess of Salisbury.

An RAR veteran read Binyon's immortal words:

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.*

Captain Andrew Telfer SCR delivered an adapted version of the Chindit Prayer:

*When Rhodesians mourn their glorious dead,
We should recall what Wingate said,
'One day, I know not when or where,
We'll say, I'm proud that I was there.'
So, for those in that far off land,
Who fell in battle, let us stand,
Remember just for what they died,
Of those shall be our boast and pride.*

This was followed by four buglers of the Royal Green Jackets (The Rifles) Regimental Association who played the *Last Post*, followed by *Reveille* and a minute's silence; Regimental Colours were lowered.

An RAR soldier, Pisayi Muzerecho MM (RIP), a decorated veteran of the Malayan Emergency and the Rhodesian Bush War, unveiled the commemorative plaque on the conical tower of the memorial. As the blessing was read, the old soldier gently turned back the RAR flag to reveal the plaque, then meticulously folded his regiment's flag – a regiment that he had, like all his brothers, served with distinction.

The dedication closed with the laying of wreaths and an impromptu singing of 'Sweet Banana', by the group of RAR



Photo: Andries van Tonder

veterans. Finally, a fly-past of two Alouette III helicopters from the Royal Netherlands Air Force, paid tribute to the memory of the RNR and RAR.



Photo: Andries van Tonder



Photo: Ian Kirkman



Photo: Colin Bewes



Photo: Colin Bewes



Photo: Peter Gillatt, South African Legion

ANZAC Day commemoration, 25th April 2022

Address given at The Lion and Tusk Museum, Mount Maunganui, New Zealand

Tanlwe Chaung

(Prepared by Andy Telfer and delivered by Tony Fraser)

In May 1940, Lieutenant Colonel FJ Wane, a former First World War Rhodesia Native Regiment officer, received the following orders in his call-up papers: 'There will be an African regiment; you will command it and the regiment will build its own camp on the Borrowdale Road.' And so the Rhodesian African Rifles was born, recruitment and training began.

On 14 August 1943 the governor of Southern Rhodesia Sir Evelyn Baring came to inspect the new unit's barracks and announced to all ranks present 'You are about to leave Southern Rhodesia to fight for the King who needs every loyal citizen to win this war.' Preparations began in earnest and embarkation leave was given. Many soldiers returned well in advance of the expiry of their leave – keen to ensure that they were not left behind. Even deserters who had got bored with the training returned and offered to take their punishment if they could be allowed to go to war. Some even asked that, if they did not make the draft, could they be returned to their former status of desertion please! News of departure spread and new recruits began pouring in and a 2nd Battalion had to be formed in order to accommodate the influx of recruits.

By the end of 1943, the RAR were in the Arakan region of Burma, part of Field Marshall William Slim's 14th Army, fighting the Japanese. At this stage of the War, the Japanese advance towards India had been halted and they were withdrawing through Burma. The RAR formed part of the pursuit, advancing through the jungle and making sporadic contact with the enemy. They were facing a formidable enemy. Field Marshall Slim wrote: 'The strength of the Japanese Army lay... in the spirit of the individual Japanese soldier. He fought and marched till he died. If 500 Japanese were ordered to hold a position, we had to kill 495 before it was ours – and then the last five killed themselves. It was this combination of obedience and ferocity that made the Japanese army, whatever its condition, so formidable...'

In April 1945, the RAR battalion was given the lead and advanced following the south bank of the Tanlwe Chaung. Australian Brigadier John Essex Clark (a former Rhodesian African Rifles officer) established the following pronunciation from a Burmese military attaché: *Tunnelwear Chorng*. A chaung in that area of Burma is usually a steep-sided, tree root-tangled, vine and debris-obstructed creek, or large stream (a *donga* to

Rhodesians). The RAR soon closed with the Japanese and, over ten days, fought them in series of encounter actions in the jungle, culminating on 26 April with a deliberate attack on two dug-in hill features code-named Bergner and Valerie.

Writing in the RAR book *Chibaya Moyo*, Brigadier Essex-Clark described the action:

The 24th and 25th April were used to vigorously reconnoitre the Japanese positions on and around the twin peaks, with the jungle and impenetrable bamboo hiding the Japanese actual and dummy positions. On the final day, the 26th started with a preparatory bombardment from 'Hurribombers' (Hurricane fighter aircraft stripped for bombing) and Spitfires in strafing tasks, and an artillery bombardment from a Nigerian battery. The fight started with 2 Platoon of A Company, under CSM van Heerden, attacking Bergner. Finding the enemy foxholes on the forward slopes empty, with the Japanese rushing down to re-occupy them, the platoon charged forward and drove the Japanese back to the reverse slopes. This initiative carried 2 Platoon to the top of Bergner from where they watched the Japanese retreat into a chaung to the south.

2 Platoon was joined on Bergner by D Company led by the big booming-voiced and much respected, Major Stan Morris (in civilian life, a Native Commissioner). Advancing on the track linking Bergner with Valerie, Morris's D Company, with 13 Platoon in the vanguard, came under heavy medium and light machine gun and sniper fire, losing momentum when the platoon commander was wounded. Major Morris came forward to take personal command of the forward troops and, with a little flank support by the battalion armourer with a Bren (light machine gun), charged down the saddle linking Bergner and Valerie, all the while under heavy and raking Japanese MMG fire, mortars and hand-grenades. Momentum was regained and the RAR attack successfully eliminated the Japanese and took Valerie. And so, both enemy positions were successfully taken, but at a cost of fourteen Askari killed and one Officer and twenty-two Askari wounded.

The action was to continue until the formal surrender by Japan on 2nd September 1945 and, even afterwards, against 'no-surrender' groups, but the 26th April has been celebrated ever since as the RAR Regimental Day.

Southern Rhodesia in World War One

When the United Kingdom declared war on Germany at the start of World War One in August 1914, settler society in Southern Rhodesia, then administered by the British South Africa Company, received the news with great patriotic enthusiasm. The Company

administrator, Sir William Milton, wired the UK government, "All Rhodesia ... ready to do its duty". Although it supported Britain, the Company was concerned about the possible financial implications for its chartered territory, should it make direct commitments to the war effort, particularly at first, so most of the colony's contribution to the war was made by Southern Rhodesians individually—not only those who volunteered to fight abroad, but also those who remained at home and raised funds to donate food, equipment and other supplies.

Starting immediately after the outbreak of war, parties of white Southern Rhodesians paid their own way to England to join the British Army. Most Southern Rhodesians who served in the war enlisted in this way and fought on the Western Front, taking part in many of the major battles with an assortment of British, South African, and other colonial units, most commonly the King's Royal Rifle Corps, which recruited hundreds of men from the colony and created homogenous Rhodesian platoons. Troopers from Southern Rhodesia became renowned on the Western Front for their marksmanship, a result of their frontier lifestyle. Some of the colony's men served in the Royal Flying Corps, one of the two predecessors of the Royal Air Force. The Rhodesia Regiment, the Rhodesia Native Regiment and the British South Africa Police served in the African theatre of the conflict, contributing to the South-West African and East African campaigns.

Though it was one of the few combatant territories not to raise fighting men through conscription, proportional to white population, Southern Rhodesia contributed more manpower to the British war effort than any other dominion or colony, and more than Britain itself. White troops numbered 5,716, about 40% of white men in the colony, with 1,720 of these serving as commissioned officers. The Rhodesia Native Regiment enlisted 2,507 black soldiers, about 30 black recruits scouted for the Rhodesia Regiment, and around 350 served in British and South African units. Over 800 Southern Rhodesians of all races lost their lives on operational service during the war, with many more seriously wounded.



The original [King's Royal Rifle Corps](#) Rhodesian Platoon, pictured at [Sheerness](#), England in November 1914. Third and fourth from the right in the second row sit the commanding officer, Captain J B Brady, and the [Marquess of Winchester](#), who informally sponsored the unit. The majority of the men pictured here were killed in action, and most of the rest were discharged because of serious wounds.^[1]

The territory's contributions during the World War One became a major entry in many histories of the colony, and a great source of pride for the white community, as well as

for some black Rhodesians. It played a part in the UK government's decision to grant self-government in 1923 and remained prominent in the national consciousness for decades. When the colonial government unilaterally declared independence from Britain in 1965, it deliberately did so on Armistice Day, 11 November, and signed the proclamation at 11:00 local time. Since the territory's reconstitution and recognised independence as Zimbabwe in 1980, the government has removed from public view many references to the war, such as memorial monuments and plaques, regarding them as unwelcome vestiges of white minority rule and colonialism. The Zimbabwean cultural memory has largely forgotten World War One.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/.../Southern Rhodesia in World...](https://en.wikipedia.org/.../Southern_Rhodesia_in_World...)

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Major George Lawrence “Zulu” Lloyd, MC

1892-1955

Born on 1st October 1892 in Rhodesia, Major George Lawrence “Zulu” Lloyd was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Staffordshire Yeomanry, on 19th November 1915. He transferred to the Royal Flying Corps and was appointed Flying officer on 28th February 1917. He was posted to 60 Squadron in April 1917. Flying Nieuport 17 Scouts, Lloyd achieved his first air combat victory while flying Nieuport A6776 on 22nd April 1917. At 07:05, he destroyed an Observation Balloon north-east of Boiry Notre Dame; he followed up on 29th June at 18:00, with an Albatross D. II, then 15 minutes later, another which he downed out of control. Both came down at Douai-Estrées. Lloyd was promoted to Lieutenant in the Staffordshires on 1st July 1917, while he remained seconded to the RFC as a Second Lieutenant. On 6th July, he was appointed Flight Commander, with the temporary rank of Captain. The following day, he achieved his fourth and final victory with 60 Squadron, an Albatross D. III at Wancourt. Lloyd was then reassigned to 40 Squadron flying Nieuports. He became an ace on 14th July 1917, by sending an Albatross D. III out of control, east of Douai. Lloyd downed three more victories before the war ended. He was awarded the Military Cross on 19th November. On 1st October 1918, he was promoted to the acting rank of Major, before relinquishing his RAF commission on 2nd May 1919. On 3rd June 1919, he was awarded the Air Force Cross. He emigrated to the United States where, in 1935, he married Martha Boswell (1905-1958). She was one of the Boswell Sisters, a popular singing trio of the 1930s. George Lloyd, the first Rhodesian-born air ace, died in Peekskill, New York on 15th July 1955, and was buried at the Hillside Cemetery, Cortlandt Manor, New York.

Citation

2nd Lt. (T/Capt.) George Lawrence Lloyd Yeo. and RFC

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Single-handed, he attacked three enemy machines, one of which he brought down out of control. On another occasion, he attacked four enemy machines, one of which he brought down in a deep dive. He has brought down many other enemy machines and taken part in numerous combats, displaying magnificent gallantry and skill on all occasions.

Supplement to the London Gazette, 22nd March 1918



THE LION & TUSK MUSEUM

Pastor Peter Coventry who served with the BSAP Support Unit, recently contributed this Hyena mine-protected vehicle model, made from matchsticks by 82-year-old Ted Fraser. Ted is legally blind; he is not a Rhodesian and he had never seen a Hyena MPV before. Peter was able to show Ted a picture of a Hyena and give some verbal description. Ted has some visual ability when holding an image very close to his face. From this probably rather blurred view, he then produced this model which is now part of the Rhodesian Corps of Engineers display in The Lion and Tusk Museum.



The Lion and Tusk Museum is preserving and protecting Rhodesian history. We need YOUR financial assistance to maintain and keep expanding. You can support us by becoming a Financial Member for just NZD 25 per annum - use this link to pay subs <https://thelionandtusk.org/home/membership/> or email Graham Divehall at the secretary@rhodesianservices.org for other payment methods.



THE CQ STORE

We are continually bringing in new products and recommend you look through our website from time to time to see what's there. You can do this from the portal page at <https://www.rhodesianservices.org/cq-store.htm>

To order anything from the CQ Store, email thecqstore@rhodesianservices.org and please remember to supply your delivery address so that we can quote fully.

When you buy from the Rhodesian Services Association CQ Store and you are supporting the preservation of Rhodesian history through The Lion and Tusk Museum.

Where possible, everything we stock is made in New Zealand, or sourced from Australia and the USA.

Here are a couple of our new products:

Rhodie Wear Rhodesian Brushstroke Pattern camouflage jerkin (also called a gilet) - a polar fleece lined sleeveless jacket. Price NZ\$230, plus P+P

This was not a Rhodesian-issue garment (polar fleece was an unknown fabric in the '70s). We have made a modern designed sleeveless jacket designed to keep your body warm and leave your arms free, featuring:



- The same cotton fabric as all our other Rhodie Wear Rhodesian Brushstroke pattern camo garments.
- Polar fleece lining.
- Extended fully lined back which ensures your lower back stays warm when bending and provides a padded seat if you are sitting on a hard or damp surface.
- Heavy-duty YKK New Zealand-made front zip, with tab cord for easier use
- Internal zip-secured pocket.
- A lined collar keeps your neck warm and has a tab to hang up your garment.
- Generously sized side pockets.

When ordering, please give us your chest measurement so that we can best fit you. There may be additional charges for custom-made sizes.

As we near November, some of you will be dusting off your green RLI blazers. If you were parachute-trained, then you may be interested in our other new product:

Copy Rhodesian Para Wings in the style worn by qualified RLI and RAR soldiers.

Price: \$20 per badge, plus P+P

We make them as sew on badges with Rhodesian Green or Rhodesian Camo backing. The embroidered part is 75mm tip to tip, 25mm high.

Note: The background on each camo one is different.



Thirsty Rhodesians



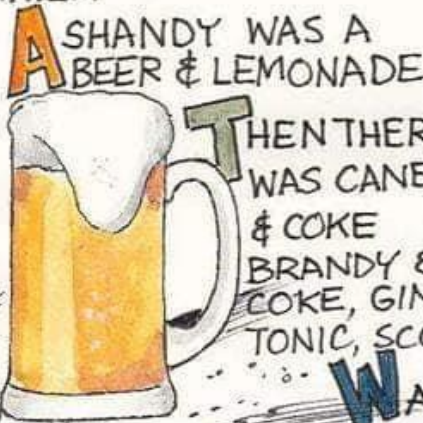
BABY CHAM WAS THE CHOICE OF YOUNG WOMEN IN THE 60's & 70's.



A RHODESIAN MALE WAS EITHER A LION OR A CASTLE

A TENNIS WAS A TONIC, SODA WATER & BITTERS

DRINKER.

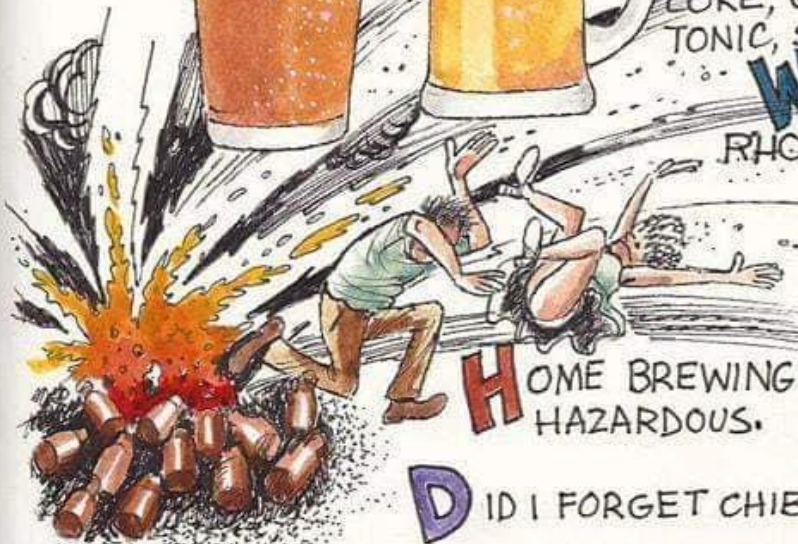


A SHANDY WAS A BEER & LEMONADE

THEN THERE WAS CANE & COKE BRANDY & COKE, GIN & TONIC, SCOTCH, VODKA



WAS THE DUMPY A RHODESIAN THING?



HOME BREWING WAS HAZARDOUS.

DID I FORGET CHIBUKU?



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This newsletter is compiled by Jackie Jackson for the Rhodesian Services Association, jackie@rhodesianservices.org

The views and comments expressed may not reflect those of the Association or its Committee.

To view previous newsletters, go to our [Archives](#)

The Lion and Tusk Museum is a collection of historical, cultural, artistic, and scientific information displays, videos, photos, and writings. These depict Rhodesia and Rhodesians of all races, from the late 19th century until the country's transition to Zimbabwe in 1980.

Neither the museum management, nor its team of volunteers, have political, racial, or gender-specific agendas, and they unreservedly condemn any scandal-mongering misconceptions to the contrary.



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